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24 October 1947

over file

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

I. REFERENCES:

1. GENERAL - Psychological Warfare.
2. Letter from Special Assistant to Secretary of State for Intelligence under date of 15 September 1947, enclosing psychological warfare plan submitted by Colonel F. W. Hyde, GSC, Hq. Third Army, Atlanta, Georgia.
3. Memorandum of Director CIA to Executive Secretary, National Security Council under date of 24 September 1947 and containing recommendations to the National Security Council reference Psychological warfare.
4. Memorandum from General Counsel, CIA, to the Director, under date of 25 September 1947, reference authority of CIA to perform propaganda functions.
— SWNCC 304/1; 304/2; 304/3; 304/4; 304/5
5. SWNCC 304/6, 30 September 1947.
6. Memorandum prepared by [] under date of 9 October 1947, reference Subversive Warfare -- as submitted by [] to the Secretary of Defense.
7. SANACC 304/7, 9 October 1947.
8. Study on Psychological Warfare submitted under date of 14 October 1947 by Mr. []
9. Letter from [] to Mr. Forrestal under date of 15 October 1947.
10. SANACC 304/8, 20 October 1947
11. SANACC 304/9/D - 27 OCTOBER 1947

II. 1. As directed by the Director of Central Intelligence, I arranged a conference in New York with Major General William J. Donovan on the subject of Psychological (Subversive) Warfare. The conference was held in General Donovan's office at 3:00 PM, Thursday, 23 October 1947.

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3. It was noted that CIA realized the seriousness and stature of the task — regardless of what agency carried it out. That we felt CIA, assuming we might be directed to carry the ball, was not prepared at this time to implement such a project and would not be without the experienced personnel, authority, and backing. However, in view of the possibility that we might be directed to handle such a project, we felt we should do everything possible to prepare for it.

4. Further attention was called to the fact that consideration was being given to implementing the project either through the Joint Chiefs of Staff, through a new Agency to be set up in the Executive Department, or within the set-up of the National Security Council.

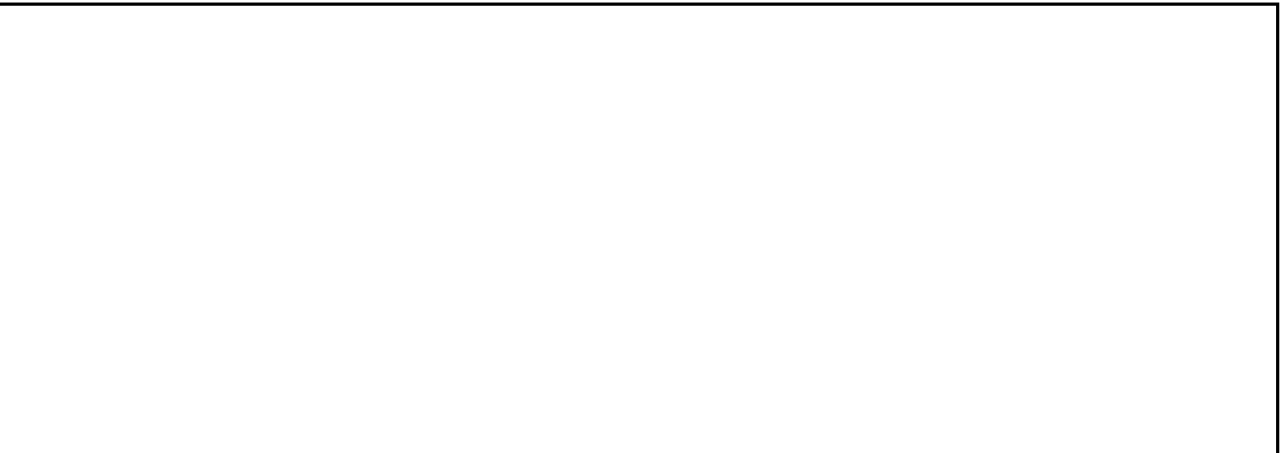
5. In addition to hearing further from [] as to his views on "who" should carry out such a project, we would also be interested in his recommendation of personnel to head the project or to assist in its operation.

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III. [] replied generally as follows:

1. Subversive (Psychological) Warfare must be initiated by the American people to protect our prestige abroad and our unity at home from attacks by the Soviet Union. This propaganda must employ psychological, economic, and political measures []

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3. He suggested that the man selected to head such an operation should be a man of stature in the business world, of sufficient means to be unconcerned over salary, not involved in political controversy, preferably a Democrat and, if practicable, from the Middle West. His planning group should be selected from suitable and experienced personnel of the Army, Navy, Air, and State Departments in order to stress the military-political requirements.

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[REDACTED]

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5. We discussed several possible personalities who might be induced to head such an operation as planned. Among others were:

[REDACTED]

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The General said he would forward us any additional names which came to mind and additional data on the subject project.

6. We then discussed several individuals who would be particularly desirable in subordinate and planning divisions of such a project. [REDACTED] stated he would be glad to advise or assist us at any time and for us to always feel free to call on him. I thanked him for his help and consideration.

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[REDACTED]

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E. K. WRIGHT
Brigadier General, USA
Deputy Director

*Original to
Director 26 Oct 47.
EWD*

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